

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW POCKET GOPHER FROM WESTERN
WASHINGTON.

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Specimens of pocket gophers collected for the Biological Survey by George G. Cantwell during the winter of 1918, six miles south of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, prove to represent a new subspecies of the *douglasii* group.

***Thomomys douglasii tacomensis*, new subspecies.**

TACOMA POCKET GOPHER.

Type.—From six miles south of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington; No. 231,096, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection); ♀ young adult; collected by George G. Cantwell, December 24, 1918; original no. 857.

General characters.—Darker than any others of the pocket gophers occupying the lowlands of western Washington. Similar to *Thomomys douglasii yelmensis*, to which it appears to be most closely related, but upperparts and face darker; postauricular black area more extensive; nasals narrower anteriorly. Similar to *T. d. melanops*, but with interparietal larger.

Geographic distribution.—The typical form occurs on a prairie six miles south of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington. Specimens from Olympia, Thurston County, and Steilacoom, Pierce County, are tentatively referred to this subspecies.

Color.—Upperparts (winter pelage) in general, cinnamon-buff or clay color, grizzled with blackish; face blackish; black postauricular area one centimeter square nearly continuous with blackish of sides of face; nose usually with white spots; whiskers, white or gray; underparts rather pale, ochraceous-buff or light buff, a trifle darker in some examples, lacking the irregular white areas observable in certain specimens of *yelmensis*.

Skull.—As in *Thomomys douglasii yelmensis*, but nasals averaging narrower anteriorly; anterior nasal openings apparently smaller; rostrum apparently more slender; cranium a little more rounded; interparietal averaging shorter and narrower.

Remarks.—The pocket gophers of the isolated prairies of western Washington show the effects of segregation. Broadly speaking, one may say that those inhabiting each prairie represent a local variant. While the characterization of each of these would be confusing, the recognition of the more obvious forms is desirable. *Thomomys douglasii douglasii* is one of these, *T. d. yelmensis* another, and *T. d. tacomensis* a third. Specimens from localities between the type locality of the present subspecies and that of *yelmensis* are of somewhat intermediate character, and might be referred to either subspecies, according to specimens now in hand. Their precise allocation must await the acquisition of additional material.

Specimens examined.—Total number 16, as follows:

Tacoma (6 miles south), Pierce County, 8; Steilacoom, Pierce County, 2; Olympia (4 miles south), Thurston County, 6.

EXTERNAL AND CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS OF *Thomomys douglasii tacomensis* AND *T. d. yelmensis*.

Species and Locality.	No. and Sex.	Total length.	Tail vertebrae.	Hind foot.	Length of skull. ¹	Width of nasals anteriorly.	Width of nasals posteriorly.	Greatest length of nasals.	Remarks.
<i>Thomomys douglasii tacomensis</i>									
Tacoma, Washington	231098 ♂	220	62	30	37.3	3.5	2.3	14.5	Adult, not old.
"	231094 ♀	205	65	29	-----	3.5	2.6	13.4	Young adult.
"	231096 ♀	218	70	30	-----	4.2	2.6	13.7	"
"	231097 ♀	215	65	30	37.4	4.0	2.5	-----	"
"	231099 ♀	212	66	30	36.6	3.9	2.5	13.6	"
"	231102 ♀	208	65	27	36.3	-----	2.5	13.5	"
"	231103 ♀	210	64	28	36.1	3.8	2.5	13.2	"
<i>Thomomys douglasii yelmensis</i> .									
Temino, Washington	31916 ♂	222	68	32	38.3	5.0	2.5	14.8	Adult.
"	43777								"
"	31458 ♂	222	63	33	38.0	5.2	2.4	14.1	
"	43323								
"	31915 ♂	200	61	29	34.9	4.2	2.0	12.9	Young adult.
"	43776								
Rochester, Washington									
"	231088 ♂	215	65	30	39.0	4.5	2.2	15.2	Adult.
"	231086 ♀	210	72	29	35.6	3.9	2.4	14.2	Young adult.
"	231087 ♀	218	66	30	38.2	4.4	2.5	14.5	Subadult.
"	231089 ♀	210	60	30	36.8	4.2	3.0	14.4	"
"	231093 ♀	220	62	33	38.2	4.0	2.5	14.5	"

¹ Length of skull anterior end of nasals to most posterior point on skull in the median line.